



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 18, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul B. Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, Bonnie Birch Jensen, Peat Humus Mine, S/023/058, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: February 10, 2003  
Time of Inspection: about 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Conditions: Mostly clear, patchy snow on the ground, 30's  
Participants: Joel Peterson, The Nature Conservancy; Yvette Converse and Laura Romin, Fish and Wildlife Service; Paul Baker and Susan White, DOGM

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

We were in the area to see the proposed site of another peat mine.

#### **Getting to the site:**

Take the Mills exit from I-15 and go west to the first intersection in Mills. Turn left for 1.3 miles then turn right and follow the road to the Wildlife Resources parking lot. The mine is a few hundred yards to the south.

#### **Observations:**

The site is on the edge of a large wetland complex. Although the wetland has areas of free water, it appears the operator has excavated material and created two small ponds with a ditch between them (Photos 1 and 2). There were several pieces of equipment, and I am unsure of the nature of much of this equipment. There were two motor homes, a boat, a trackhoe (Photo 3), one empty and four partly or completely full gas cans (about 2½ gallons each, Photo 4), an oxygen and an acetylene tank, and an empty fuel tank on a stand. Some of the equipment with which I am not familiar is shown in Photo 2 and includes what appears to be a type of dredge with a hose leading away from the ponds. Some of the other equipment looks as if it might be used to screen the mined material (Photo 5).

Most of the vegetation around the edge of the wetland is saltgrass, but in places there is a lot of what appear to be alkali sacaton and tall wheatgrass. There is a lot of saltgrass in the wetter parts of the wetland, but there are also other species that we did not attempt to identify.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The gasoline needs to be stored so the gas will not get into the wetland if it spills. This is required by rule R647-3-107.4 and probably by other state and federal regulations. The operator also needs to be careful that the site is kept free of trash and scrap material.

jb

cc: Bonnie Birch Jensen, operator

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**ATTACHMENT**  
**Inspection Date: February 10, 2003; Report Date: March 10, 2003**  
**Photographs**  
**S/023/58, Peat Humus Mine, Bonnie Birch Jensen**



**Photo 1. One of two small ponds apparently being used for the peat mining operation. This pond may have existed prior to any mining.**



**Photo 3. Trackhoe and one of two motor homes on the site.**



**Photo 2. This pond appears to have been excavated.**



**Photo 4. Gasoline cans. All but one were at least partly full.**



Page 2

Bonnie Birch Jensen, Peat Humus Mine

S/023/058

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**Photo 5. An overview of some of the equipment.**